Byakuya Tsushi
Volume 1 Chapter 1
STORM IN HEAVEN
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ビブロス

葬儀の朝はうすくもり。
人はみなうつむき加減だった。
荒れ果てた山の「お墓」から
「トントン」と音が聞こえる。
死んだ者はそれに囚われて行ったというが…。
手を伸ばせばそこにある「恐怖」。
上質なホラー連作集。

白夜草子

宮城とおこ

ビブロス

Okuroyamitake • 龍夜宴 • Ai Shinozaki

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It is a village nestled within a mountain with only old folks living here
When I quit high school in September I had nothing else to do so I came to stay with my grandmother
GRANDMA,
I'M GOING UP TO THE MOUNTAIN FOR A BIT.
OKAY
DON'T GO TOO FAR, SHOU...
MAKE SURE YOU COME BACK BEFORE DINNER.
And then one day...
Day after day I roamed the mountain aimlessly and waited for each day to end...
Byakuya Zaushi
GREETING

I happened to see a girl out of nowhere
Byakuya Zaushi
—GREETING—

THERE WAS A GIRL IN THE MOUNTAIN?
YEAH... DIDN'T YOU TELL ME THERE WERE NO OTHER YOUNG PEOPLE IN THIS VILLAGE?
SHE WAS WEARING A KIMONO AND I THINK SHE WAS ABOUT MY AGE...
NOT AGAIN
THAT'S JUST SOME STORY
THAT WOULD BE THE FEMALE ONI
AN ONI?
WELL, YOU SEE, AN ONI LOOKS LIKE A HUMAN GIRL, BUT...
LEGEND HAS IT THAT THE MOUNTAIN ONI SEARCHED FOR AND TOOK AWAY ALL THE YOUNG AND PRETTY FEMALE CORPSES IN THE VILLAGE
THAT WAS PROBABLY HOW THE ONI GOT ITS POWER AND KEPT ON REVIVING ITSELF
YES
ARE YOU COMING, MITSU-SAN?
SHOU, IT'S TOO DANGEROUS SO DON'T GO TOO FAR FROM HERE

.....
OTHERWISE, YOU'LL BE TAKEN AWAY BY THE ONI
I'M NOT INTERESTED IN ANY OF THE SUBJECTS.
BESIDES IT SEEMS NO ONE'S SERIOUS ABOUT ANYTHING ANYWAY.
WHY ARE YOU SAYING YOU WANT TO QUIT ALREADY WHEN SCHOOL HAS JUST STARTED SHOU?
My mind would be at peace if I was in the mountain.
And I wouldn't have to worry about anything.
That's what I was thinking, that day.
ouch

GEEZ
I THOUGHT I WAS GONNA DIE...
WHERE DID I FALL OFF ? OVER THERE?
WHAT SHOULD I DO NOW...? HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO GO BACK? DO I REALLY HAVE TO CLIMB UP?
THROB
TSK
I CUT MY LEG
WHAT IS THIS? A PIECE OF HAIR ?
IT'S REALLY LONG
FLASH

THAT WAS THE GIRL I SAW BEFORE...
...OH ...I GUESS ...
I HEARD A LOUD NOISE JUST NOW..
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
I THINK I ONLY HAVE A CUT ON MY LEG...
When I thought about it later..
YOU'RE BLEEDING WOULD YOU LIKE TO COME TO MY HOUSE SO THAT I CAN GIVE YOU SOME FIRST AID?

I wondered why I even went with her...
IT DOESN'T SEEM TO BE A DEEP CUT
ARE YOU FROM THE VILLAGE? I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU AROUND HERE BEFORE...
TH-THANK YOU!
I DIDN'T KNOW THERE WAS A HOUSE LIKE THIS DEEP IN THE MOUNTAIN, THOUGH...
AH. WELL, MY GRANDMOTHER LIVES IN THE VILLAGE
I'M JUST STAYING WITH HER FOR A WHILE...

FWA
IT'S SO QUIET IT'S CREEPY
I WONDER IF THIS IS WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE THE ONLY HOUSE DEEP IN THE MOUNTAIN.
Touch!
!?
YOU HAVE VERY NICE LEGS, DON'T YOU?
NERVOUS

THINK ABOUT IT... WHAT IF YOU WERE ONE OF THOSE CORPSES IN YOUR LAST LIFE? PERHAPS YOUR LEGS HAD BEEN SEPARATED FROM YOUR BODY IN THE PAST.
YEAH, I HEARD FROM MY GRANDMA
WHAT DO YOU THINK THE ONI WANTED WITH THE BODIES?
DO YOU KNOW
...ABOUT THE STORY OF THE ONI WHO STOLE FEMALE CORPSES FROM THE VILLAGE...?
THE ONI PICKED FROM ITS COLLECTION OF BODIES AND GATHERED THE BEST PARTS...
SO THAT IT COULD CREATE THE MOST BEAUTIFUL HUMAN-SHAPED DOLL IN THIS WORLD...
...WELL, IT'S REALLY QUIET HERE. IS EVERY-ONE IN YOUR FAMILY OUT AT THE MOMENT?
AH...

Although I followed this girl here without thinking...
OH...
ARENT YOU TIRED? PLEASE TAKE A GOOD REST.
I'M GOING TO BRING YOU SOME TEA.
HOWEVER, HE HAS BAD LEGS SO HE WON'T COME TO THIS PART OF THE HOUSE WITHOUT A REASON
MY OLDER BROTHER IS HOME.
I wondered what she had been doing here
Had she always been living here?
Not to mention all the schools in the area had been abandoned.
rub rub
MAN... I'M SLEEPY
MAYBE I'VE BEEN WALKING AROUND TOO MUCH..
yo
slam

A PERSON
HER OLDER BROTHER...?
slowly
GRAB
PUKE
dude

"THAT WOULD BE THE FEMALE ONI."

"WHAT DO YOU THINK THE ONI DID WITH THE CORPSES?"

THAT SORT OF STORY

SINCE I'M NOT A GIRL NO ONE IS GOING TO WANT MY LEGS ANYWAY
SHE SAID I HAD NICE LEGS EVEN THOUGH I'M A GUY
OH YEAH, CAN I BORROW YOUR PHONE?
I WANT TO CALL MY GRANDMA SHE'S GOING TO BE WORRIED IF I GO BACK LATE
YOU MUST BE TIRED YOU SEEMED TO BE SLEEPING SOUNDLY
OH YOU'RE AWAKE
S... SORRY
...UNFORTUNATELY WE DON'T HAVE ONE HERE

...YOU MEAN YOU DON'T HAVE A PHONE?
...YOU'RE KIDDING, RIGHT? HOW ARE YOU GOING TO GET IN TOUCH WITH ANYONE IF SOMETHING HAPPENS DEEP IN THIS MOUNTAIN...?
TUCK
WHAT'S THIS...?
.....
OH.....
REALLY.....
I GOT BORED WHILE YOU WERE SLEEPING.
IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I'VE TALKED TO SOMEONE MY AGE.
IT
THE KNOT IS REALLY TIGHT.
...IT WON'T COME LOOSE.

...WHAT? WHAT ARE YOU AFRAID OF?
YOWCH!
IT'S TOO BAD YOUR LEG GOT HURT. BUT EVEN SO
GIVEN TIME I'M SURE IT WILL HEAL IT WILL BE ALL RIGHT BY THEN
JOLT
...I'M GOING HOME NOW
IF I DON'T GET GOING SOON I'M REALLY GOING TO BE IN TROUBLE WITH MY GRAND-MA...
WOULD YOU LET ME GO PLEASE?
HUH? WHY?
HEY.
I...

AS A HUMAN BEING YOU DON'T FEEL YOU BELONG IN THIS WORLD
SO IT'S BETTER TO BE IN THE MOUNTAIN
WHERE YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT ANYTHING
ISN'T THAT WHAT YOU THINK?
IN THAT CASE IT'S OKAY IF YOU NEVER GO BACK
HOW DID YOU KNOW ABOUT THAT ?
PUH
MY LEG...
SOMEONE'S PULLING MY LEG ?
HEY WHY DON'T YOU LET ME FINISH WHAT I WAS TELLING YOU EARLIER?

THE ONI DIDN'T JUST CREATE FEMALE DOLLS...
...I HEARD IT MADE MALE DOLLS AS WELL...
JUST LIKE THE CREATION OF FEMALE CREATURES, THE ONI GATHERED HEADS, TRUNKS, AND ARMS FROM THE DEAD.
WHAT ABOUT THE LEGS...?
DRAG...
DRAG...
DRAG...
...!?
YES. THE LEGS...

WHAT'S THAT NOISE...?
DRAG...
MY BROTHER IS COMING THIS WAY
DRAG...
DIDN'T YOU SAY HE COULDN'T WALK...?
THAT'S RIGHT
DRAG...
My brother doesn't have any legs...
He's crawling like a worm over here.
TUG
AH!!

Pull Pull
Pull
Please wait ...!!
ARE YOU TRYING TO USE MY LEGS TO COMPLETE YOUR LEG-LESS DOLL?
ARE YOU AN ONI?
ARE YOU...
DRAG
PLEASE DON'T GO... WHY MUST YOU TAKE MY LEGS...?
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU HAVE TO USE MY LEGS, RIGHT...!?
DRAG...
IT IS TRUE AN ONI ONCE EXISTED IN THIS MOUN-TAIN.
BUT I AM NOT THE ONI

A LONG TIME AGO MY OLDER BROTHER CONTRACTED A COMMUNICABLE ILLNESS AND DIED YOUNG.
THEN HIS BODY WAS TAKEN AWAY BY SOMEONE
BY THE TIME WE FOUND HIS BODY HIS LEGS FROM BELOW THE KNEES WERE GONE...
RUMOR SAID IT WAS THE ONI'S DOING
TO ME, MY OLDER BROTHER WAS MORE IMPORTANT THAN ANYTHING ELSE
I COULD NOT ALLOW PART OF HIS BODY TO BE TAKEN AWAY
I WANTED TO GET HIS LEGS BACK NO MATTER WHAT.
HOWEVER, THE ONI WAS REBORN INTO ANOTHER DOLL AND DISAPPEARED AMONG THE HUMANS
THE DOLL CONTINUED TO ESCAPE FROM MY SIGHT...
AND THE ONI WAS REBORN WITH A DIFFERENT APPEARANCE OVER AND OVER AGAIN FOR THE PAST FEW HUNDRED YEARS.
...BUT FINALLY I FOUND THE DOLL.
I FOUND THE ONE WHO WAS REBORN WITH MY BROTHER'S LEGS

GULP
ME...?
YOU'RE WRONG
I'M NOT A DOLL... I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT IT...!!
NO. I'M RIGHT. YOUR LEGS ONCE BELONGED TO MY BROTHER.
I KNOW BECAUSE THEY'RE FROM SOMEONE I LOVE.
...NO WAY THAT'S NONSENSE...!!
YOU'RE WRONG
This girl is not the oni in the story I heard
But she is no longer human either
BUT IT DOESN'T MATTER IF YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND
YOU DON'T GET IT. DO YOU?
slide
...Well, then, please return...

She is the real one of this world.
...My brother's legs.
Her existence is solely based on her brother.
faint

ARE YOU GOING OUT, SHOU?
I'VE BEEN WORRIED ABOUT YOU SINCE YOU FELL OFF A MOUNTAIN CLIFF.
ARE YOU REALLY ALL RIGHT?
My legs are still here with me
YEAH
OKAY
When I regained consciousness I was lying by the mountain stream
Ever since I came back home I wondered if that was all just a dream.

"...Your legs seem to be a little too slender for my brother. We will have to wait until you grow up a bit more."
A PIECE OF HAIR —
IT'S LONG
The last thing I heard from that girl...
I don't know what was real and what wasn't anymore
But I know I was already caught
When I become an adult... she will be back for my legs.

Byakuya Zaushi ~ Greeting ~ / The End

Byakuya Yaoshi
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BIRDIE'S GRAVE
PEKKO'S GRAVE
PUPPY GRAVE
KITTY'S GRAVE
I dream about my hometown a lot
There was an out-of-the-way old warehouse
And my young friends that I haven't met for a long time
BUT THIS IS OUR SECRET GAME—
SO WE CAN'T TELL ANYONE ABOUT IT
Taru-mi
Kayo-wara
Naka
ANYONE WOULD BE CURIOUS ABOUT THIS
Although I never took part in their game
Why do I keep dreaming about it over and over again?
IT'S INTERESTING TO SEE A LIVING THING'S MOMENT OF DEATH, ISN'T IT?
WHAT SHOULD WE TRY TO KILL NEXT, THEN?
Byakuya Zaushi
BURIAL

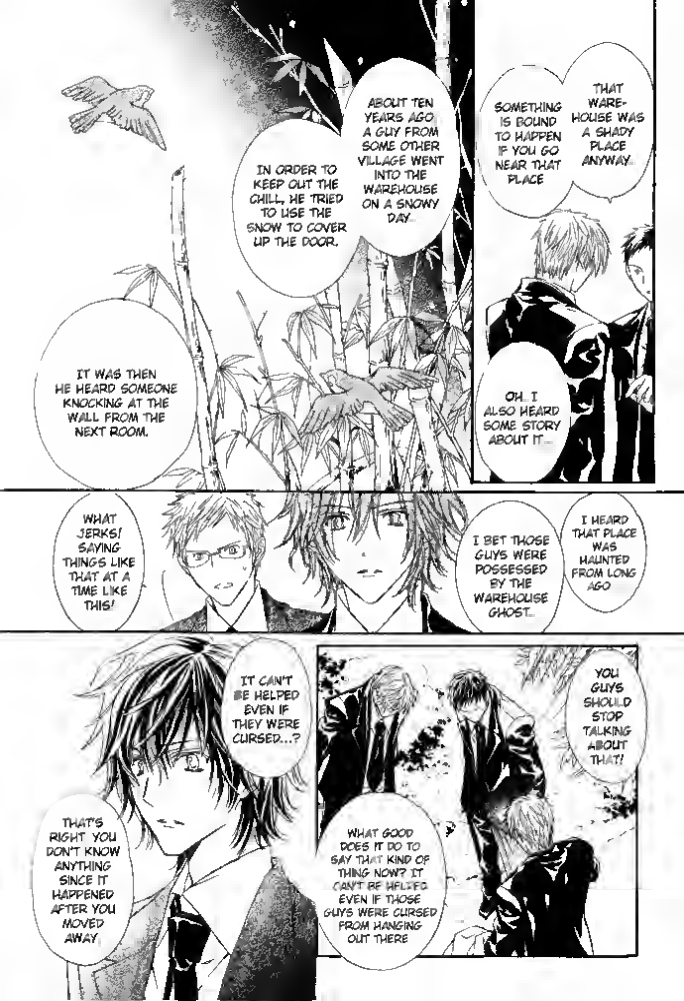
Where my memory was left behind
And the reason I returned to my home-town
Byakuya Zaushi
-BURIAL-

HEY, I HEARD KAJIWARA WAS DONE IN BY THE WAREHOUSE GHOST...
...
KAZUMI!
KAZUMI... YOU ARE KAZUMI SHIRAISHI, RIGHT? I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE COMING TOO
OH...
OTHER PEOPLE WERE SAYING IT WAS STRANGE HOW SOMETHING BAD HAPPENED TO ALL THREE AT THE SAME TIME...
THAT'S GOT TO BE A GHOST'S DOING...
WHISPER
STOP SAYING THAT KIND OF THING AT A TIME LIKE THIS.
WHISPER
WHISPER
TARUMI ALSO DIED DUE TO AN ILLNESS AND I HEARD NIOKA IS PRETTY MESSED UP NOWADAYS
THOSE GUYS PLAYED SOME PRETTY SICK GAMES AROUND THE WARE-HOUSE WHEN THEY WERE KIDS...
WHISPER

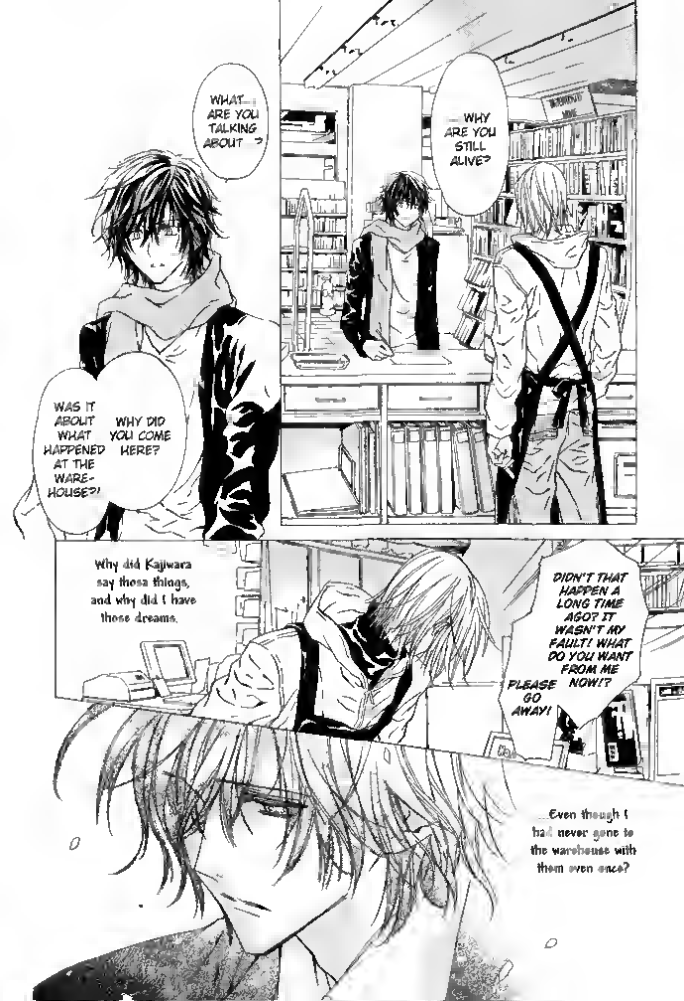
YOU ARE SUMIYOSHI, AREN'T YOU? IT HAS REALLY BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE WE SAW EACH OTHER
THAT'S SINCE YOU SUDDENLY CHANGED SCHOOLS WHEN WE WERE ELEMENTARY KIDS. IT HAS BEEN TEN YEARS, HASN'T IT?
I WANTED TO GET IN TOUCH WITH YOU, BUT I DIDN'T KNOW WHERE YOU LIVED.
WHO TOLD YOU ABOUT TODAY'S FUNERAL?
I HAPPENED TO RUN INTO KAJIWARA SOME TIME AGO...
OTHERWISE, I DON'T THINK I'D EVER KNOW ABOUT THE FUNERAL.
HEY, KAZUMI! YOU SHOULD ALSO COME WITH US AFTER SCHOOL!
DON'T TELL ANYONE, BUT WE'RE GOING TO THE WAREHOUSE LATER!
KAZUMI
I heard Kajiwara was killed in a car accident
He was going towards the old warehouse when the breaks failed and the car crashed to the bottom of the valley

At that time my nagging mother had already decided
tsk
WHAT A BORING GUY!
I wouldn't be going to the public school in the village instead, she wanted me to attend a private high school
The warehouse originally belonged to someone who was convalescing nearby!
It had been abandoned and completely fallen into ruin since no one was taking care of it.
OKAY... BUT...
WE THOUGHT OF SOMETHING FUN.
WE'RE GOING TO PLAY OUR SECRET GAME!
YEAH YEAH, MY MOM TOLD ME THAT NERD WENT TO TOWN FOR HIS CRAM SCHOOL AND STUDIES EVERYDAY HE'S WEIRD!
KAJIWARA~ WHY DID YOU INVITE THAT NERD SHIRAISHI?
I really did want to hang out with them!
But I was very happy when Kajiwara invited me.
There was no way I could have gone with them.

TUG
DID YOU SEE ANYONE BEHIND ME JUST NOW SUMIYOSHI?
DID YOU!
HUH?
NO, I DIDN'T SEE ANYONE
But I'm pretty sure someone was pulling my sleeve
I HEARD IT'S A CURSE!


THAT WAREHOUSE WAS A SHADY PLACE ANYWAY...
SOMETHING IS BOUND TO HAPPEN IF YOU GO NEAR THAT PLACE
ABOUT TEN YEARS AGO A GUY FROM SOME OTHER VILLAGE WENT INTO THE WAREHOUSE ON A SNOWY DAY...
IN ORDER TO KEEP OUT THE CHILL, HE TRIED TO USE THE SNOW TO COVER UP THE DOOR.
OH. I ALSO HEARD SOME STORY ABOUT IT...
IT WAS THEN HE HEARD SOMEONE KNOCKING AT THE WALL FROM THE NEXT ROOM.
I HEARD THAT PLACE WAS HAUNTED FROM LONG AGO
I BET THOSE GUYS WERE POSSESSED BY THE WAREHOUSE GHOST...
WHAT JERKS! SAYING THINGS LIKE THAT AT A TIME LIKE THIS!
YOU GUYS SHOULD STOP TALKING ABOUT THAT!
WHAT GOOD DOES IT DO TO SAY THAT KIND OF THING NOW? IT CAN'T BE HELPED EVEN IF THOSE GUYS WERE CURSED FROM HANGING OUT THERE
IT CAN'T BE HELPED EVEN IF THEY WERE CURSED...?
THAT'S RIGHT. YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING SINCE IT HAPPENED AFTER YOU MOVED AWAY.

I HEARD THEY WERE KILLING ANIMALS LIKE CATS AND RABBITS
THE SCHOOL EVENTUALLY FOUND OUT AND IT CAUSED A BIG COMMOTION
WASN'T IT BECAUSE THEY GOT POSSESSED BY THE WAREHOUSE GHOST AND BECAME CRAZY?
Could it be what I saw in my dream...?
ONE MONTH AGO
Weekly Rental
DVD VHC CD
ARE YOU KAZUMI SHIRAISHI...?
YOU ONCE ATTENDED THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AT FUKAZAWA VILLAGE?
SCRATCH
Membership
egistration Card
HUH...?
AREN'T YOU KAJIWARA...?
WHAT A COINCIDENCE! SO YOU WORK HERE?
I LIVE NEARBY
WHY...


WHAT... ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
WHY ARE YOU STILL ALIVE?
WAS IT ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED AT THE WARE-HOUSE?!
WHY DID YOU COME HERE?
Why did Kajiwara say those things, and why did I have those dreams.
DIDN'T THAT HAPPEN A LONG TIME AGO? IT WASN'T MY FAULT! WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM ME NOW!?
PLEASE GO AWAY!
...Even though I had never gone to the warehouse with them even once?

ARE YOU HOME NIOKA? KAZUMI IS HERE—YOU REMEMBER KAZUMI SHIRAISHI?
HE WANTS TO SEE YOU
mutter
KAJIWARA IS FINALLY DEAD. IT'LL BE MY TURN NEXT...
mumble
WE WERE CURSED
HE'S BEEN LIKE THIS SINCE KAJIWARA'S ACCIDENT.
I'M NOT SURE IF HE'LL EVEN RECOGNIZE US...
mumble
...
CAN YOU TELL ME IF YOU, KAJIWARA AND ANOTHER ONE OF YOUR FRIENDS MADE SOME GRAVES BY THE WAREHOUSE WHEN WE WERE IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL?
SHOCK
...CAN YOU UNDERSTAND ME NIOKA?

BUT EVERYONE ALREADY KNOWS ABOUT THE KILLINGS DON'T THEY?!
EVERY KID DOES THAT, RIGHT? PLAYING PRANKS ON BUGS AND FROGS AND ALL...
YEAH... WE SACRIFICED SOME SMALL ANIMALS
BUT IT WASN'T OUR FAULT. IT JUST SORT OF ESCALATED TO KILLING BIGGER ANIMALS... IT WAS WHEN THAT GUY CAME!
THAT GUY CALLED TO US FROM INSIDE THE WAREHOUSE!
HE'S BEEN TUGGING MY SLEEVE ASKING ME TO GO TO HIM FROM THERE.
BOTH TARUMI AND KAJIWARA FELL FOR THAT TRICK AND NOW THEY'RE DEAD!
I'M NEVER GOING TO MAKE THAT MISTAKE! NEVER!
THAT GUY WANTS TO SEE OUR MOMENT OF DEATH...
AND THAT'S ALL HE WANTS... TO SEE PEOPLE DIE!

SINCE THOSE GUYS TALKED ABOUT THE WAREHOUSE ALL THE TIME... I WONDER WHAT WAS OVER THERE...
...SAY, DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA, KAZUMI?
BACK THEN, TARUMI ONCE WENT TO THE WAREHOUSE BY HIMSELF AND SUDDENLY FELL INTO A COMA...
AND IT SEEMS KAJIWARA WAS ALSO TRYING TO GO TO THE WAREHOUSE RIGHT BEFORE THE ACCIDENT
...NIOKA HAS LOCKED HIMSELF UP SINCE TARUMI'S DEATH, YOU KNOW
NOT REALLY... I'VE NEVER GONE TO THE WAREHOUSE WITH THOSE THREE SO I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT IT...
BUT I WONDER IF I WAS BEING CALLED OUT AS WELL...
IT SOUNDS LIKE BOTH TARUMI AND KAJIWARA WERE LED BY SOMETHING TOWARDS THE WAREHOUSE...
MAYBE IT WAS TRYING TO LURE ME TOO...
WHAT?

ARE YOU STUPID? THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
BUT...
SHALL WE GO TO THE WAREHOUSE AND TAKE A LOOK?
I WONDER. HE DOESN'T LOOK LIKE HE'S FROM AROUND HERE
HE'S PROBABLY HOMELESS
WHO IS THAT?
WE WILL DECIDE ON THAT NEXT...
WHAT? BUT THAT'S A PERSON!
HE'S NOT JUST A BUNNY OR CAT!
THAT'S RIGHT... BESIDES HE'S AN ADULT AND STRONGER THAN WE ARE RIGHT?

Someone was trying to tell me something through that dream...

WHAT ARE YOU DOING KAZUMI?
BRUSH
KITTY'S GRAVE
IT'S THE SAME AS WHAT I DREAMT...
HEY, WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO DO?
DIG
DIG

knock
knock
knock
knock
knock
knock
SHOCK
...!
THOSE ARE BONES...?
STOP IT— YOU KNOW THE PETS WERE BURIED HERE!
WHAT'S THAT NOISE...?
I THINK IT'S COMING FROM INSIDE THE WARE-HOUSE, ISN'T IT?
SOMEONE'S KNOCKING ON THE WALL FROM INSIDE—

KAZUMI?
KITTY'S GRAVE
click
GIMME A BREAK ARE YOU KIDDING?
WHAT'S THIS?
DOO
CRUNCH
I'M GONNA OPEN THE DOOR.
I WANT TO SEE IF SOMEONE REALLY IS INSIDE

DAMN, I DROPPED IT
rustle
KICK
KICK
WAIT A SECOND... GET BACK HERE, KAZUMI!!
SLAM
KICK
WAIT...
gasp
beeep
beeep
...!
WHAT IS THIS...?
A Vow
We swear to keep our secret forever
Buddies,
Kajiwara
Naoka
Takumi
RUSTLE

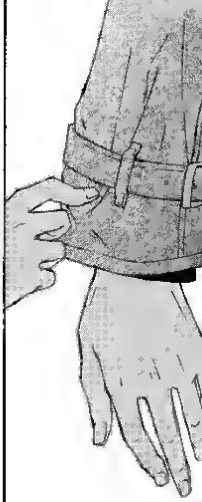
SUMI YOSHI
HELLO ...?!
WHO'S THIS?
NIOKA?!
WHERE ARE YOU NOW?
THE WARE-HOUSE... I'M AT THE WARE-HOUSE
OH...SO YOU WERE BEING CALLED OVER THERE, TOO?
HE WAS KNOCKING ON THE WALL FROM INSIDE RIGHT?
...I KNOW BECAUSE WE WERE THE ONES WHO LOCKED HIM UP THERE...
?
NO, THAT'S NOT IT...
THAT GUY IS STILL INSIDE THERE
kick
kick

NIOKA, I TOTALLY HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT
THAT GUY WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO ENJOYED THE KILLINGS
WHEN WE WERE WITH HIM THAT FEELING JUST RUBBED OFF ON US
CRACK
CLICK
YOU KNOW THERE'S NO WAY WE WOULD DO THAT SORT OF THING RIGHT?
I'M TELLING YOU. IN THE END THAT GUY SAID "I WANT TO SEE A PERSON'S MOMENT OF DEATH."
WHAT?
YOU DO UNDERSTAND... SUMIYOSHI, DON'T YOU?
IT WAS ONLY WHEN THAT GUY JOINED US THAT WHAT WE DID CEASED TO BE SOME "CHILDREN'S PRANKS."
...IN THE WAREHOUSE
CREAK
SO WE LOCKED HIM UP ON THAT SNOWY DAY TEN YEARS AGO
CREAK
THAT'S RIGHT.
THE ONE WHO COLLAPSED IN THE WAREHOUSE BACK THEN...
THAT SNOWY DAY TEN YEARS AGO...IN THE WAREHOUSE... DON'T TELL ME...

TOGETHER WITH THE HOMELESS GUY WE LOCKED THAT GUY UP INSIDE
WE DID IT. WE SAW THE HOMELESS PERSON GO INTO THE WAREHOUSE
ha ha
WAIT
ha ha ha
REMEMBER HOW THAT BUM ENDED UP FREEZING TO DEATH?
I'M SURE THAT GUY WAS HAPPY ABOUT IT SINCE HE GOT TO SEE SOMEONE'S MOMENT OF DEATH
JUST WHO EXACTLY IS "THAT GUY"...?
CREAK
CREAK
CREAK
CREAK
THAT GUY IS STILL INSIDE THE WARE-HOUSE!
CREAK
CREAK
CREAK
CREAK
CREAK
THAT GUY RIGHT
THE TEACHER SAID THAT HE HAD ALREADY DECIDED TO TRANSFER TO ANOTHER SCHOOL, BUT I KNEW THAT WAS A LIE
I COULD TELL FROM THE TEACHER'S EYES
THAT GUY "DIDN'T COME" TO SCHOOL THE NEXT DAY
CREAK

KA...
KAZUMI ...?!
SWOOSH

HE WAS STILL SO YOUNG. YET HE PASSED AWAY SO SUDDENLY...
I HEARD HE DIED ABRUPTLY AFTER HE CAME BACK FROM THE COUNTRY-SIDE...
KO ZU MI...
E... ZU MI...
I FEEL SORRY FOR THE MOTHER...
SHE SEEMS TO REALLY CARE FOR HER SON...
The small Kazumi inside the warehouse...



LET'S PLAY...?

The "thing" that had been locked up for ten years inside the warehouse by these three as a cruel game was,
a living spirit*
It's said that the one who meets his own living spirit will lose his life
*A SPIRIT OF A LIVING PERSON INSTEAD OF A DEAD ONE
EVEN KAZUMI HIMSELF DIDN'T REALIZE HIS DARK THOUGHTS WISHING FOR SOMEONE'S DEATH
NO ONE NOT EVEN KAJIWARA AND HIS FRIENDS KNEW THAT WAS ACTUALLY KAZUMI'S LIVING SPIRIT...
Did you feel your own moment of death— possibly the "best" experience you would ever get?
Or are you still inside the warehouse leading someone else to their death ?
Kazumi
Byakuya Zaushi ~ Buried ~ / The End

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QC by Kalendel

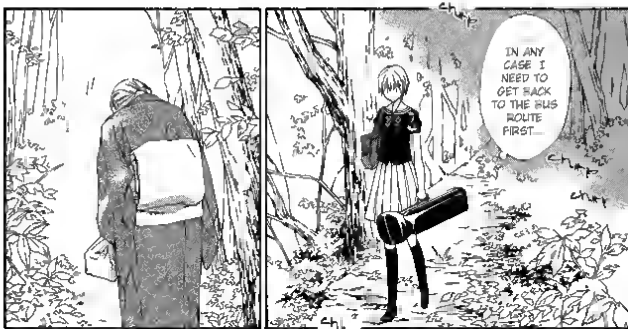
chirp
chirp
chirp
TAP
chirp
HUH
TAP
HOW DID I
TAP
chirp
ah...
chirp
chirp
When did I get off the bus?
..!?
Right now schools out for summer vacation, but I still participate in my club activities
My school is beyond the mountain
I was on the bus as usual
Anyway where in the mountains are we?
HOW DID I GET HERE?

WHAT IS THAT ?
THIS IS SOME-THING MAN-MADE
A SMALL SHRINE ?
DOES ANYONE EVER COME TO SEE THIS PART OF THE MOUNTAIN?
RUSTLE
HEY!
YOU HUMAN OVER THERE
...

WE ARE NOT FOXES STUPID!!
OH... FOXES
GODS
YOU LITTLE FOXES?
WE TOLD YOU WE'RE NOT FOXES!!
WE ARE THE RESIDENT GODS OF THIS MOUNTAIN
WE HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU HERE.
I SEE SO YOU'RE THE FOX DEITY'S PETS, RIGHT?
OKAY I'M SURE THIS IS JUST A DREAM
fu
mp
A dream?
Am I dreaming?
WHAT...?
WHERE DID THE VOICES COME FROM?
YOU ARE NOT DREAMING.

Since it's ancient...
Ok.
That's why that tiny shrine looks so crumbly...
What a stupid girl!
RRRRRRR!
YOU ARE SO RUDE!
DON'T PUT US IN THE SAME CLASS AS THOSE SCUM!
WE HAVE BEEN GUARDING THIS HOLY MOUNTAIN FOR AGES!!
IT MIGHT BE TRUE THERE ARE HARDLY ANY WORSHIPPERS NOWADAYS...BUT HUMANS USED TO COME IN SWARMS YOU KNOW!
AND THEY ALWAYS BROUGHT TONS OF OFFERINGS TOO
grrr~
ARE YOU HUNGRY?
You just made a "GRRR" sound
URGH
...I'M PRETTY SURE NO ONE WILL STOP BY THIS PLACE.
SINCE I'M HERE I MIGHT AS WELL MAKE AN OFFERING
TAMPON

IT'S ALRIGHT IF THIS IS NOTHING BUT A DREAM. BUT IF IT ISN'T, I'LL END UP MISSING CLUB PRACTICE...
SO I HAVE TO LEAVE NOW
I was going to snack on these cookies.
HERE YOU GO...
American Sweets
munch
munch
BYE BYE, LITTLE FOXES!


chirp
chirp
chirp
IN ANY CASE I NEED TO GET BACK TO THE BUS ROUTE FIRST...

WHY DO I GET A FEELING I'VE MET HER SOMEWHERE BEFORE...?
EXCUSE ME.
HUH? SOMEONE'S HERE...
...UM... WAIT A SECOND, MA'AM...!!
I'M SORRY, BUT CAN YOU TELL ME HOW I CAN GET TO THE BUS ROUTE...?
HEY!

huff
WHAT?
I'M BACK TO WHERE I WAS.
huff
AH, THE GIRL
THE GIRL HAS COME BACK
WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU ARE GOING?
YOU DIDN'T EVEN SAY A WORD TO US WHEN YOU LEFT!
pissed
HUH?
BUT I SAID "BYE BYE"
pissed
THIS MOUNTAIN IS WHERE THE SPIRITS SLEEP
YOU ARE FORBIDDEN TO MOVE AROUND ON YOUR OWN
WE ARE THE ONES WHO CALLED YOU HERE YOU KNOW

OH YEAH, THAT THING... THAT BIG BOX THAT MOVES REALLY FAST AND MAKES LOUD NOISE, RIGHT...?
"BUS" ...?
WHAT IS A "BUS" ...?
EVEN IF YOU SAY THAT... I STILL HAVE TO GO TO SCHOOL...
SAY, CAN YOU GUYS TELL ME HOW TO GET TO THE BUS ROUTE FROM HERE?
I SEE IF THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT. YOU CAN WALK ALONG THE PATH LEADING UP THE MOUNTAIN JUST BEYOND THE SHRINE
IT MAKES A LOT OF NOISE DAY AFTER DAY!
OH... IS THAT SO?
SO I can get to the bus route if I go up yeah?
THANK YOU VERY MUCH
BYE
JUST A SECOND, YOU!
BUS
YOU REALLY DON'T LISTEN, DO YOU?
DON'T SAY FOOLISH THINGS LIKE YOU'RE LEAVING OR WHATEVER!
ACK...

IT LOOKS LIKE YOU HAVEN'T NOTICED IT YET...
THIS IS A SACRED PLACE OF THE GODS
DO YOU REALLY THINK YOU CAN JUST LEAVE LIKE THAT?
YOU CAN'T GO BACK ANYMORE YOU KNOW...
WHY? WHY ARE YOU GUYS KEEPING ME FROM LEAVING?
AH, I KNOW! IT'S RARE TO GET THE CHANCE TO SPEAK WITH A YOUNG GIRL LIKE ME SO YOU'RE SUPER HAPPY ABOUT IT RIGHT?
I BET YOU'RE PROBABLY STUCK LIVING WITH SOME OLD MAN.
LIKE HELL WE ARE!
RUMBLE
OH YEAH
GLANCE
WHAT IS HE TRYING TO SAY? THIS IS BAD I REALLY WANT TO GET BACK TO SCHOOL...
PRACTICE IS GOING TO START SOON...

IT'LL BE FINE IF I JUST KEEP GOING UP RIGHT
ONE TWO
ONE TWO

!!
IT'S STINGY TO JUST OFFER YOU COOKIES
I'LL GET SOME BREAD FROM THE STORE SO PLEASE ENJOY THIS
I'LL GIVE YOU THIS
IT'S MY LUNCH

munch
munch
SEE YA!

SHEESH
huff
WHAT A NIGHT-MARE.
huff

Today we're supposed to go over the marching theme from end to end.
Everyone is working hard, since we have a contest in Fall
Our teacher Mr Toda, is going to be mad if I'm late
the old lady from earlier...
I remember she was sitting next to me on the bus...
ISN'T THAT THE BUS DRIVER?
WHY IS HE HERE?
AND THAT'S...
HUH?
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN TO THE BUS...?
MAYBE AN ACCIDENT...?
I WONDER IF I CAN STILL GET ON IF I HURRY
huff
huff
IF I WAIT FOR THE NEXT SCHEDULED BUS, I'LL END UP BEING AN HOUR LATE

AGAIN?
HOW DID I END UP HERE AGAIN...?
THE GIRL
WE ALREADY TOLD YOU THAT YOU CAN'T LEAVE JUST BECAUSE YOU WANT TO!
BUT...
HEY
JUST WHY DO YOU WANT TO KEEP ME HERE, ANYWAY?
WHY DO I KEEP COMING BACK HERE?
JUST WHO ARE YOU GUYS?

ANYWAY... I REALLY WANT TO GET BACK TO SCHOOL
IF THERE'S STILL A BUS I WOULD LIKE TO GET ON
...ARE YOU STILL HUNGRY?
WHAT ABOUT THE OFFERING?
GROWL
...WE MIGHT BE FORGOTTEN GODS
...AND YOU MIGHT BE THE LAST PERSON WHO WOULD EVER COME TO THIS SHRINE...
BUT EVEN IF THIS IS OUR LAST MISSION, WE WANT TO SEE IT THROUGH

THAT'S RIGHT! DIDN'T THE OLD LADY OR THE BUS DRIVER STOP BY HERE...?
THEY HAVE ALREADY GONE ON AHEAD
YOU ARE THE ONLY ONE LEFT...
IT'S NOT SOMETHING YOU NEED TO BE AFRAID OF.
YOU ARE GOING TO BECOME ONE WITH US A GOD OF THIS SACRED MOUNTAIN
W...
WAIT
ARE THEY ANGRY BECAUSE MY OFFERING WASN'T ENOUGH ?
BUT I DON'T HAVE ANY MORE FOOD LEFT
IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE I CAN GIVE THEM ...?
SQUEEZE

I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ELSE I CAN OFFER YOU BUT...
UM
click
I'M GOING TO PLAY THE SONG THAT I'VE BEEN PRACTICING AT SCHOOL FOR YOU
IF YOU LIKE IT, PLEASE LET ME GO, ALRIGHT?
WHAT'S SHE DOING?
...!!
THAT'S IT!

Whew
PU
U
AA
...!!
PUA
PUA
PUA
UA
WHAT... WHAT THE HELL IS THAT NOISE !?
MY EARS HURT !!
OUR HEADS ARE GONNA EXPLODE... STOP IT! STUPID!!!
PUA
PUA
PUA
PUA
PUA

Si
lence
HUH ?
HEY GUYS ... AREN'T YOU GOING TO LISTEN UNTIL THE END ?
Ah, well. I guess it wasn't really a song w/ just my trumpet.
Gui
I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE A GOOD IDEA TO PLAY MUSIC AS AN OFFERING, THOUGH
...BUT WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO WITH THAT LITTLE GIRL?
ONCE A SOUL COMES TO THIS MOUNTAIN, IT'S OUR DUTY TO MAKE SURE IT GOES WHERE IT BELONGS.
AHHHH THAT WAS AWFUL. !
WHAT TERRIBLE NOISE ..!
WHAT-EVER
At least I can leave now.
Okay let's go

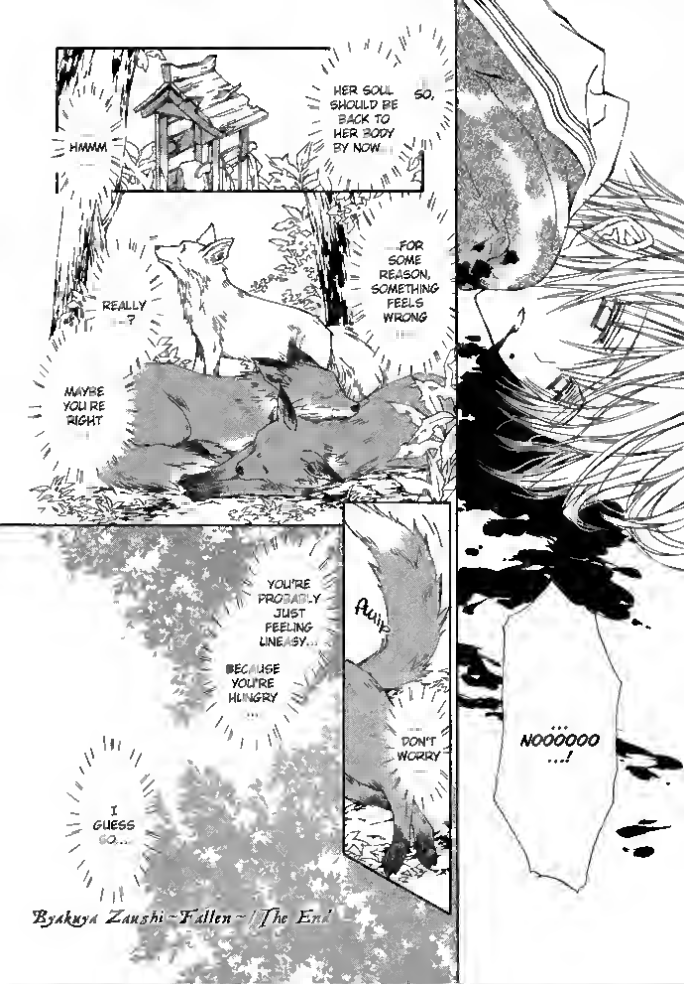
...BUT SHE TRULY DOESN'T UNDERSTAND HER SITUATION...
FORTUNATELY THERE IS STILL A BODY...
IN THAT CASE...
HOWEVER, WE REALLY DON'T WANT TO TAKE IN A NOISY KID LIKE THAT!
LET'S JUST SEND HER BACK
WE'RE SENDING HER BACK!
Why is the bus in a place like that...?
Is that the same bus I was on...?
...!
YANK

WOO
OSH
...I'm falling...!
...That's right... The bus I was riding on...
...It broke through the railing...
...And fell off the cliff...

SHE STILL DOESN'T REALIZE SHE'S ALREADY DEAD
EVEN AFTER HER SOUL LEFT HER BODY AND WANDERED ABOUT THE SACRED MOUNTAIN
THAT GIRL SURE IS EMPTY-HEADED

HAAA
huff
huff
Is this a dream?
My bag and my trumpet..
ALL MY STUFF IS HERE.
I MUST HAVE BEEN SLEEPING
ME?
pat
What was that just now
What?
GO BACK
GO BACK NOW

Whose hands are these ?
What is this ?
Flop
THUD
... AH ...!!



Byakuya Zaushi ~Fallen~ / The End

Hey, there's someone over there Someone white
She's beckoning for us to come
Toeru
But
There's no one there
You must be seeing things.
You can see a white hand?
Yeah look. Over there
Byakuya
Zaushi
-Invitation-
It's beckoning us over See Fukiko-chan?
Oh yes.
But you know Toeru
You mustn't follow it
That isn't anything human

Promise me Understand?
—My older cousin said that with a lonely expression
When I was around ten she suddenly vanished
Or the reason why she vanished
I don't know if she's alive or dead
That's what everyone said
But I know
That she went where that white hand led

Byakuya Zanshi
~INVITATION~

Presented by
Storm in Heaven
www.stormInheaven.net

Scanned by Lelei
Translated by Delilaryn
Edited by Chisato
QC by Kalendel

And I too
OH MY IF IT ISN'T KISAKA-SAN'S.
OH IS THAT TOORU-KUN?
YOU'VE COME BACK? MY HOW YOU'VE GROWN... I HEARD YOU WENT TO UNI-VERSITY IN TOKYO...
IT'S NICE TO SEE YOU AGAIN AFTER SO LONG MY UNIVERSITY IS ON SUMMER BREAK RIGHT NOW
I SEE I'VE HEARD THERE'S A GET-TOGETHER AT YOUR HOME TONIGHT SO MAKE SURE TO SAY HELLO TO EVERYONE
OF COURSE...
OH!
SONOKO-CHAN! TOORU-KUN'S COME HOME!

TOORU LONG TIME NO SEE
IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE YOU'VE COME BACK HOME
SHOCK
...!!
...WHAT'S WRONG? DID YOU FORGET ME?
...NO, IT'S JUST BEEN SO LONG...
FOR A MOMENT I THOUGHT IT WAS FUKIKO-SAN...

Fukiko was Soneko's older sister by ten years...
...MY SISTER... SHE WAS ABOUT MY AGE NOW WHEN SHE VANISHED, WASN'T SHE?
CHUPPLE
AND SHE WAS MY SISTER. IT'S HARDLY ODD THAT YOU'D THINK THAT...
The two sisters were very close and Soneko always stuck close to Fukiko...
I GUESS SO...
THAT WHITE DRESS... IS THAT A MEMENTO FROM FUKIKO-SAN?
BUT IT MAKES ME HAPPY TO HEAR THAT I LOOK LIKE MY SISTER.
SINCE PEOPLE SAID I WAS A GOOD-FOR-NOTHING COMPARED TO HER...

I'm still bound here—
...No matter how many years pass this place never changes...
IT IS THE CURSE OF ITO'S POND
OH, THERE GOES GRANDMA YOTSU AGAIN WITH HER TALES
IT'S THE STORY ABOUT A YOUNG GIRL WHO WAS PUSHED INTO A POND IN THE MOUNTAINS AND DIED HUNDREDS OF YEARS AGO, RIGHT?
A girl named Ito was a servant to a wealthy farm family. She fell in love with a young man in the village.
But Ito's family was terribly poor so the young man abandoned her for another woman.
Though Ito fell hopelessly in love with the young man she had become a nuisance to him so he and his friends lured her out to a pond in the mountains...
And he pushed her into the pond...

The young man and his friends laughed at her saying,
"Who would ever seriously want a dirt poor girl like you as his wife?"
While she sank into the pond, she glared up at them with a frightening facial expression and said,
"I will curse you and the people of this village for all time."
AND TO THIS DAY, SHE BECKONS TO US FROM THE SHADE OF A TREE INVITING US TO SINK TO THE BOTTOM OF THE POND WITH HER
THAT'S QUITE THE STORY, GRANDMA. BUT...
WE DON'T KNOW WHERE ITO'S POND ACTUALLY IS, RIGHT?
IT MIGHT HAVE DRIED UP A LONG TIME AGO
RU
TOORU

YANK
...WHAT ARE YOU DOING, TOORU?!
OUT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT WITH BARE FEET...
WHERE WERE YOU GOING, TOORU?!
...
And the day that Fukiko-san disappeared, too—
...
BUT THE HAND...
IT WAS BECKONING ME...
That kind of thing happened countless times
And those times I didn't even know why I was there...
...OH

SO-NOKO-SAN
I KNOW HOW THAT TALE CONTINUES
...THAT YOU COULD SEE IT, TOO
THE WHITE HAND
...THE YOUNG MAN WHO PUSHED THAT POOR GIRL INTO THE POND WAS PUSHED INTO THE POND BY HIS OWN WIFE
AFTER THAT, THE WOMAN WAS PUSHED INTO THE POND BY HER OWN CHILD... AND THAT'S HOW ITO'S CURSE CONTINUES THROUGH ALL TIME
...AND SHE SAID...
MY SISTER WAS SOMEONE WHO COULD SEE THINGS THAT OTHER PEOPLE COULDN'T
IF MY SISTER FOLLOWED THAT WHITE HAND...
AND IF SOMEONE PUSHED HER INTO THE POND AFTER THAT...

WAS THE ONE WHO PUSHED MY SISTER IN YOU...?
SHUDDER
IT'S JUST A JOKE

SPLASH
JERK
.....!

...THAT DREAM AGAIN... I'VE HAD THAT DREAM OVER AND OVER AGAIN SINCE I WAS A CHILD...
HUFF
EVEN THOUGH I'VE NEVER BEEN TO THAT PLACE...
I WAS SLEEPING...
—I've never been there...?
...Really?
—NO!
THERE'S NO WAY! WHY WOULD I GO SOMEWHERE LIKE THAT...
—Was the one who pushed my sister in you?
—Why am I this uneasy...?
YES BUT STILL...
WATER

OH, THE ONE WHO VANISHED BEFORE FUKIKO
SOME TWENTY YEARS AGO, WASN'T IT
YEAH
THE DAY THAT KID VANISHED FUKIKO WENT UP INTO THE MOUNTAINS ON HER OWN FOR SOME REASON AND CAUSED A HUGE FUSS.
SO THE MEN ARE STILL UP DRINKING
AND SONO-KO-SAN
SPEAKING OF WHICH, ABOUT THAT KID OF TORII-SAN'S
chatter
chatter
THAT'S ITO'S CURSE IT'S BECOME QUITE THE TALK OF THE TOWN
NO WAY
WORD IS THAT TORII-SAN'S KID WAS PUSHED IN BY FUKIKO
THAT STORY HAS GONE ON LIKE THAT FOR AGES.
And then I to Fukiko-san...
Could Fukiko-san have pushed that person...
There was some-one who went miss-ing...?

Flicker
...COULD THAT REALLY...
BUT
Maybe I should see myself... If it's like it is in the dream
That isn't anything human. You must not follow it
If I really did push Fukiko-san in...
THAT'S RIGHT
Wobble
NO
THAT'S THE REASON WHY I CAME BACK

—I saw this in my dream
I REALLY HAVE COME HERE BEFORE—?
SO I REALLY
AND I'VE JUST FORGOTTEN EVERYTHING

And the white dress fluttering in the wind.
I remember seeing this.
I
IS THIS ITO'S POND...?
SLIDE

GRAB
GASP
.....!
SONG... KO-SAN
....
GULP
WHY... ARE YOU HERE ?
I CAUGHT YOU LEAV-ING THE HOUSE, SO I FOLLOWED YOU...
....THE WHITE HAND INVITED YOU TO COME HERE, RIGHT?

I WONDER WHY YOU AND MY SISTER COULD SEE IT, BUT I CAN'T.....
IF I COULD SEE THE WHITE HAND, I WOULD FOLLOW IT WITHOUT HESITATION
SO-NOKO-SAN!
HEY
MY SISTER WAS ALWAYS LOOKING OFF SOMEWHERE IN THE DIS-TANCE.....
EVEN I'M ALWAYS LOOKING INTO THE TREES BEHIND ME OR INTO THE DARKNESS OF THE MOUNTAIN.....
I WONDER IF EVERYONE CAN SEE SOMETHING SOME-WHERE...
WHAT DOES IT FEEL LIKE TO SEE THINGS THAT PEOPLE CAN'T SEE...?
DOES IT FEEL LIKE YOU'RE SOMEONE SPECIAL, LIKE YOU'VE BEEN CHOSEN?
OR IS IT JUST A NUI-SANCE?
.....
...BUT MY SISTER ALWAYS THOUGHT OF YOU AS SPECIAL — ONLY YOU.
WAS THAT BE-CAUSE
YOU SAW THE SAME THING AS HER...?
TOORU

...DO YOU KNOW THAT THERE WAS SOMEONE WHO WENT MISSING FROM THIS VILLAGE?
IT WAS BEFORE YOU WERE BORN
...MY SISTER TOLD ME SOMETHING SHE HADN'T TOLD ANYONE ELSE BEFORE SHE VANISHED
SHE SAID THAT SHE WAS LED HERE BY A WHITE HAND BECKONING HER.
AND PUSHED THAT PERSON, SOMEONE SHE HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH, INTO THE POND HERE
—Oh
—It wasn't a dream. It wasn't all a dream...
I WONDER IF THAT'S "ITO'S CURSE"
There really was a curse...
Fumiko-san knew that I was the person who would push her in so she was afraid of me

TOUCH...
TOORU
...WHAT'S WRONG? YOU'RE SHAKING
WHAT ARE YOU AFRAID OF ?
SO-NOKO-SAN
ARE YOU GOING TO PUSH ME INTO THIS POND ?
BECAUSE I TOOK YOUR PRECIOUS SISTER AWAY FROM YOU
BECAUSE I PUSHED FUKIKO-SAN INTO THIS POND !!
THAT'S NOT WHAT HAP-PENED
TOORU
struggle

THE CURSE IS A CHAIN THAT BINDS YOU AND MY SISTER. PLEASE, MAKE ME A LINK IN THAT CHAIN.
YOU'RE GOING TO PUSH ME INTO THE POND.
WHA
—
THAT DAY, I FOLLOWED MY SISTER WHEN SHE WENT UP THE MOUNTAIN ROAD INVITED BY THAT WHITE HAND
AND BEFORE YOU FINALLY GOT THERE, I PUSHED MY SISTER INTO THE POND
DON'T YOU GET IT?
YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO KILL MY SISTER
BUT YOU DIDN'T KILL HER.

IF YOU PUSH ME IN, I CAN FINALLY BECOME THE NEXT LINK IN THE CURSE !
I'LL BE SPECIAL TOO, FOLLOWING IN THE STEPS OF MY SPECIAL SISTER....
THAT'S THE ONLY THING I WANT !
COME ON
TOORU
... OKAY?
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
... ST...

BHM
... STOP ...!!
gasp
.....!

SPLASH

And just now in that one instant I became the next link in the curse—
I had been seeing the future ...
Seeing what happened just now in Semura ...
In that moment, I understood it perfectly.

Byakuya Zanshi ~Invitation~ / End

Greeting
Byakuya Zanshi
Burial

Fallen

Invitation

Byakuya Zanshi

The East of the Sun, The West of the Moon
Four years ago, the rising nation of Tiberia's expansion westward caused most of the neighboring tribes to surrender
...including a small tribe from Menola called Romulus—
BRO-THER ...!
AT LEAST THOSE WHO CAN STILL RUN SHOULD ESCAPE!
THE TOWN WILL FALL INTO TIBERIA'S HANDS
BRO-THER!

JIL-DORA
BROTH-ER. THIS IS TER-RIBLE THAT'S ...!
...WE HAVEN'T HAD ANY CONNECTION TO THE OUTSIDE FOR YEARS.
...HOW COULD TIBERIA HAVE KNOWN WHERE WE LIVED?
BRO-THER ...?
...AN ANGEL CAME
JIL-DORA.
Presented by
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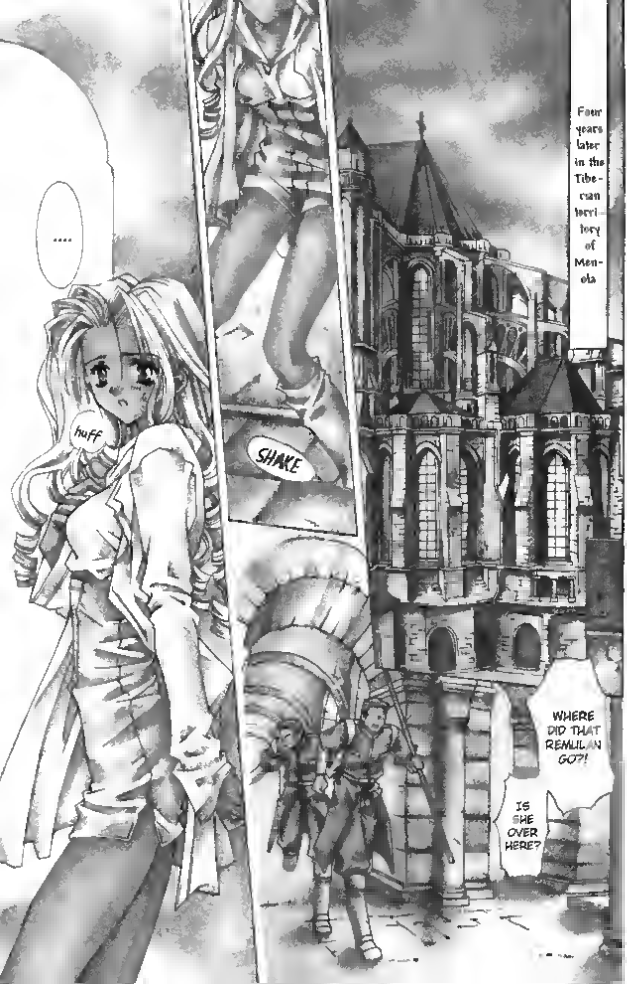
Scanned by Lele
Translated by Dallaryn
Edited by Oh Seto
QC by Kalendel

A PURE WHITE ANGEL
AZRAEL, THE ANGEL OF DEATH
—The war ended in Tiberia's victory
And the people of Remulus were driven from their home-town—
太陽の東 月の西
The East of the Sun, the West of the Moon.

—East of the sun, west of the moon.
The ancient people of Remulus live there
in that secret place, or so I heard.


Four years later in the Tibetan territory of Menola
WHERE DID THAT REMULIAN GO?!
IS SHE OVER HERE?
SHAKE
huff
....

I'VE TOLD YOU TIME AND TIME AGAIN NOT TO BE LATE TO CHURCH!
HON-ESTLY
STOMP
!
THERE SHE IS! OVER THERE!
DO YOU REALIZE WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO YOU IF YOU'RE LATE!?
YEAH YEAH
GET HER!
GRAB
... STOP ...!

YOU'RE A REMULAN, AREN'T YOU? WHAT ARE YOU DOING SNEAKING IN HERE?!
THAT HURTS!
SO YOU KNOW THIS IS A TIBERIAN CHURCH?
TALK! OR ELSE
WA...
WAIT, PLEASE!
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
TAP
I WENT TO GO SEE THE BISHOP!

Skin like ivory...
—Silver hair
and pale pink eyes...
—He's pure white...
HEY

He talked
TELL ME WHAT A REMULAN IS DOING HERE
YES SIR
WHAT'S UP WITH HER?
SEEING THAT SUSPICIOUS BEHAVIOR, AND FROM A REMULAN NO LESS WE DECIDED TO ARREST HER, BUT —
SHE BROKE INTO THE CHURCH FROM THE BACK DOOR.
SUSPICIOUS BEHAVIOR?
WHAT —?!
THAT... THAT'S NOT WHAT... I...!
I HAVE A REQUEST TO MAKE OF THE BISHOP, SO I CAME HERE...
PLEASE —
RAUL!
WHAT IS IT? TELL ME.
— ME?

HUH?
SHE'S PROBABLY GOT HER REASONS
SHE CAME HERE KNOWING FULL WELL HOW DANGEROUS IT WAS. THE LEAST I CAN DO IS HEAR HER OUT
BUT HE'S THE REAL THING. THIS MAN IS RAUL ELVIM, A BISHOP OF TIBERIA
I UNDERSTAND WHY YOU'D DOUBT IT, YOUNG LADY
SHUT UP, CHRIS!
AND YOU! IF YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY, THEN HURRY UP AND SAY IT!
BISHOP RAUL... EXCUSE ME YOUR GRACE, BUT I THINK IT UNWISE TO ASSOCIATE WITH A REMILIAN OF UNKNOWN IDENTITY—

SO? SPIT IT OUT
THANK YOU VERY MUCH
MY NAME IS JILDORA, AND AS WAS SAID EARLIER I'M A SURVIVOR FROM REMULUS
I'M SEARCHING FOR SOMEONE
I THOUGHT THAT THE BISHOP, SEEING SO MANY PEOPLE IN CHURCH, MIGHT POSSIBLY KNOW SOMETHING...
THE PERSON WHO TOLD TIBERIA WHERE THE TOWN OF REMULUS WAS FOUR YEARS AGO IN THE BATTLE OF MENCLA...
I
... AH...

—The person my dying brother called "Azrael, the Angel of Death"—

THE TRAITOR OF REMULUS

But still, I didn't forget about him, not for a single moment

...Jil?
I've lived my entire life together with you.
Everything I've seen, heard, and felt was all done with you.
So we'll share everything together until the end.
I'll be with you until the very end.
...
PAT
...Jil.
This isn't going to be the "end."
Ah

A DREAM OF MY BROTHER
That's right
was saved
They saved me
THAT BISHOP SAVED ME

IN OTHER WORDS

IF REMULANS WERE THE ONLY ONES WHO KNEW WHERE THE TOWN OF REMULUS WAS, THEN IT FOLLOWS THAT THE ONE WHO LEAKED THE LOCATION WAS ALSO A REMULAN.
...BUT ARE YOU ABSOLUTELY SURE THAT NO ONE EXCEPT FOR THE REMULANS KNEW WHERE REMULUS WAS?
AND ON TOP OF THAT THE ONLY CLUE YOU HAVE IS YOUR BROTHER'S LAST WORDS OF "AZRAEL THE ANGEL OF DEATH".
...YOU WANT TO KNOW IF ANYONE'S SEEN A REMULAN AROUND HERE?
...YES.
You're an utter moron! It'd be easier to find a needle in a haystack!
...
BUT I CAN'T THINK OF ANY OTHER WAY...
AND IT'S BETTER THAN DOING NOTHING AT ALL...
...

...BUT I HAVEN'T SEEN ANYONE DARK-SKINNED COME TO CHURCH
THE CHURCH CERTAINLY WASN'T A BAD IDEA.
SORRY
MANY PEOPLE COME TO WORSHIP ON THE DAY OF REST, AND THEY BRING ALL SORTS OF NEWS WITH THEM
...I SEE
...
...BY THE WAY...
...HUH?
SHHHP
ARE YOU GOING TO AVENGE YOUR BROTHER OR SOME-THING?
WHAT EXACTLY ARE YOU PLANNING TO DO ONCE YOU FIND HIM?
CHATTER

...WELL, WHATEVER I DON'T REALLY CARE
...
...
...

DON'T JUST BARGE INSIDE WITHOUT A SINGLE WARNING!
proud
I'VE ALREADY WOKEN UP, AND I'M NOT TIRED ANYMORE!
Hey!
You awake!?
THERE'S WORK TO BE DONE
GO OUTSIDE AND CALL CHRIS SHE'S THE BODYGUARD WHO WAS WITH ME YESTERDAY
WHY DO I HAVE TO DO IT?
...
THE REASON WHY YOU'RE HERE IS BECAUSE I'M LETTING YOU AND BESIDES
—WHA
!?

I'M ALBINO
MY SKIN NATURALLY HAS NO PIGMENTS, SO I CAN'T BE OUT IN THE SUN FOR LONG
—Oh!
STUPID
YOU SHOULDN'T WORRY ABOUT THINGS THAT I DON'T
—He's the type of person who's quick to pick up on other people's feelings isn't he
OKAY

I'm sure he's very smart.
OH! GOOD MORNING.
GOOD MORNING, JILDORA.
YOU'RE UP EARLY. WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO SHOW YOU AROUND THE CHURCH?
OH NO, THE BISHOP SENT ME TO FETCH YOU...
OH...
—I see...
YOU DID WANT TO GO OUT, DIDN'T YOU, JILDORA?
THAT WAS AN EXCUSE.
RAUL CAN'T GO OUTSIDE DURING THE DAY, SO HE CAN'T BRING YOU OUTSIDE.
.....

YOU FILTHY SPIRIT, WHO GAVE YOU PERMISSION TO ENTER?!
I'D HEARD THERE WAS A REMULAN SKULKING ABOUT ON CHURCH GROUNDS, BUT I CAN'T BELIEVE IT WAS TRUE!
WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS?!
PLEASE BE QUIET LORD MIZLAF.
SO THIS IS RAUL ELVIM'S DOING, IS IT!
CHRISTINA LAROSHELL!
UM.
EXCUSE ME
HAS HE FORGOTTEN THAT HE COULD NOT BE THE BISHOP WITHOUT THE ARCHBISHOP'S SUPPORT?
THAT BRAT DOES WHATEVER HE DAMN WELL PLEASES!

...IT'S ALWAYS LIKE THIS.
THIS GENTLEMAN IS NOT FOND OF RAIN. IT'S NOTHING FOR YOU TO CONCERN YOURSELF WITH.
...CHRIS?
FWUP
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?! HAND THE GIRL OVER! WE'LL THROW HER INTO JAIL!
...YOU MAKE THE MOST RECKLESS REMARKS LORD MIZLAF
THE BISHOP DID NOTHING BUT HELP A GIRL WHO STUMBLED UPON THE CHURCH WHEN SHE HAD NO PLACE TO GO
SHOULD THE COLOR OF ONE'S SKIN AFFECT WHETHER OR NOT TO EXTEND THE HAND OF SALVATION TO ONE WHO IS LOST?
THE BISHOP DID HIS DUTY AS A MEMBER OF THE CHURCH
...BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY MY LORD THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL IS AWAITING YOUR ARRIVAL. IS HE NOT?
LORD MIZLAF, THAT IS CERTAINLY

HMPH!
I'LL QUESTION YOU AGAIN ANOTHER DAY. THIS ISN'T THE END OF IT!
YOU OUTSIDER!
IS SOMETHING THE MATTER?
NO...
—What was that just now?...
PLEASE WAIT, LORD MIZLAF!

SHALL WE DISPATCH THE ARMY TO CAPTURE THE REMILAN?
NO WAIT
THAT ISN'T ENOUGH TO SOOTHE MY WRATH!
DAMN IT! HOW ABSO-LUTELY DISGUST-ING!
LORD MIZLAF!
WE'LL USE THE GIRL TO CATCH THE BISHOP AND HIS FOL-LOWERS!
RAUL

CHRIS
GOT-CHA.
JILDORA HAS SAID SHE'LL ATTEND CHURCH SERVICES TOMORROW IN PART TO CONTINUE HER SEARCH. I'M SURE
...
OH—
MIZLAF IS QUITE PREJUDICED AGAINST REMULANS. CAUTION MIGHT BE NECESSARY WHEN IT COMES TO HIM.
...THIS MORN-ING...
WE RAN INTO MIZLAF IN THE COURTYARD. JILDORA WAS WITH ME...
.....
WHAT I MEAN IS...
CHRIS,
IT LOOKS LIKE THERE'S SOMETHING YOU WANT TO SAY.

...ONLY THAT I WILL ABIDE BY WHATEVER YOU DECIDE TO DO
THAT'S AMAZ-ING!
SO YOU REALLY ARE A BISHOP!
ARE YOU TRYING TO PICK A FIGHT HERE?
WOW!

...WELL, HE IS ALBINO. HE CERTAINLY IS EYE-CATCHING.
I'VE NEVER SEEN AN ALBINO BEFORE HIM! THOUGH I HEARD THAT THERE USED TO BE ONE IN REMULUS A LONG TIME AGO.
AN ANGEL?
LIKE A PAINTING OF AN ANGEL I SAW A LONG TIME AGO. A PURE WHITE ANGEL!
HE LOOKS SO HANDSOME LIKE THAT!
A PRIEST OF TISERIA ONCE SAID THAT THOSE WHO ARE BORN WITH A DISTINCTIVE FEATURE ARE FREQUENTLY APPOINTED BY GOD
THEY ARE "BELOVED BY GOD," HE SAID
YOU COULD SAY THAT'S WHY RAUL BECAME A BISHOP AT SUCH A YOUNG AGE, PRECISELY BECAUSE HE'S ALBINO.
OH, BUT I THINK IT SUITS HIM.
HE'S SO HANDSOME, AND SMART, TOO.

WELL THEN WE'RE GOING TO GO TO THE ALTAR TO CONDUCT SERVICES. YOU STAY HERE.
YOU CAN WATCH THE PEOPLE WHO COME TO SERVICES FROM HERE TOO
ALL RIGHT
CHRIS
...
YEAH
...
JIL
...
YOU'LL FIND THE PERSON YOU'RE LOOKING FOR, I'M SURE OF IT
FOCUS AND LOOK HARD
...I WILL!

RAUL, YOU...
LET'S GO
He's got a sharp tongue but he really watches out for other people
He's a good person
...
—Azrael, the Angel of Death

"...AN ANGEL CAME."
"A PURE WHITE ANGEL AZRAEL, THE ANGEL OF DEATH"
WHY?
"WHAT EXACTLY ARE YOU PLANNING TO DO ONCE YOU FIND HIM?"
WE HAVE BUT ONE MASTER, THE LORD OUR GOD
WHY IS HE BETRAYING ME IN THE END?!
JIL-DORA?
...WHY?! BROTHER AND I HAVE SHARED EVERYTHING UP UNTIL NOW!
—That smile...

...Is the one dark emotion I have within me——
BEAR THESE WORDS IN YOUR HEART AS YOU SERVE YOUR GOD AND PASS THEM ON TO YOUR CHILDREN
YOU MUST LOVE THE LORD, YOUR GOD. LOVE HIM WITH ALL YOUR HEART, ALL YOUR SOUL, ALL YOUR POWER.
"Revenge"? No, that's not it.
The thing that drives me is the fact that my brother fell in love with Azrael without my knowing.
The fact that my brother died because of Azrael's betrayal...
...isn't the thing that drives me.

Or is it——
STOMP
...WHAT ...!?
BISHOP RAUL ELVIM!
YOU ARE ARRESTED ON THE CHARGES OF AIDING A REMULAN REFUGEE—
AND PLOTTING TO OVER-THROW THE TIBERIAN GOVERN-MENT!
—SO IT'S YOU, LORD MIZAR

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
I DON'T REALLY CARE HOW MUCH YOU DISLIKE ME BUT I'D APPRECIATE IT IF YOU'D STOP SPOUTING SUCH NONSENSE
!
DID YOU REALLY THINK I DIDN'T KNOW?!
THAT GIRL UP THERE IS THE PROOF, AND EVERYONE HERE IS A WITNESS!
mutter...
YOU KILLED YOUR OWN TRIBE!
WE CAN'T TRUST A WORD THAT YOU SAY!
...IT'S TRUE THAT SHE IS MY GUEST, BUT SHE ONLY CAME TO VISIT SOMEONE HERE

"YOU KILLED YOUR OWN TRIBE!"
YOU OUTSIDER!
Could it be...
I'VE NEVER SEEN AN ALBINO BEFORE HIM! THOUGH I HEARD THAT THERE USED TO BE ONE IN REMULUS A LONG TIME AGO.
Remulans have dark skin and golden hair, but...
I'M ALBINO
MY SKIN NATURALLY HAS NO PIGMENTS SO I CAN'T BE OUT IN THE SUN FOR LONG
Pure white.

...THE PURE WHITE AZRAEL?
I DON'T CARE. ARREST THEM. THE BISHOP, HIS SERVANT, AND THAT FILTHY REMULIAN AS WELL!
WAIT.
FROM THE VERY BEGINNING, YOUR GOAL WAS TO CRUSH ME.
THIS IS YOUR ARBITRARY DECISION, RIGHT? I DON'T THINK YOU'D WANT ANY TROUBLE WITH THE ARCHBISHOP, EITHER.
IT'S ENOUGH IF I GO, RIGHT?
CHRIS AND THAT REMULIAN HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH IT.
IF YOU LET THOSE TWO GO I'LL DO WHATEVER YOU SAY
...HMPH. WELL, I GUESS THAT MUCH CAN BE ALLOWED ...
RAUL!

VERY WELL.
THIS IS YOUR WAY OF FIGHTING BACK IN VAIN, SO WE CAN AT LEAST THROW YOU A BONE
TAKE HIM AWAY!
...WA...
WAIT!
.....
ARE...
ARE YOU AZRAEL?

...I WAS A REMILAN
...IT'S THE TRUTH
EVER SINCE THE DAY I SOLD OUT REMILIUS, I NO LONGER HAD ANY PLACE TO GO HOME TO
I KNEW FROM THE BEGINNING
...THAT YOU CAME HERE TO PASS JUDGMENT ON ME

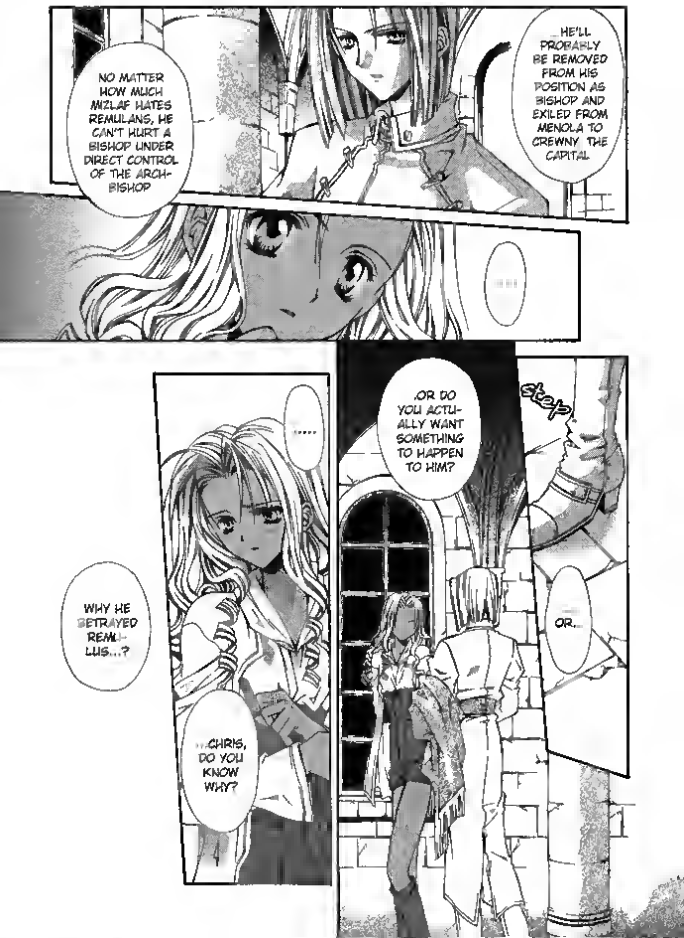
—The thing that drives me is the fact that my brother fell in love with Azrael without my ever knowing

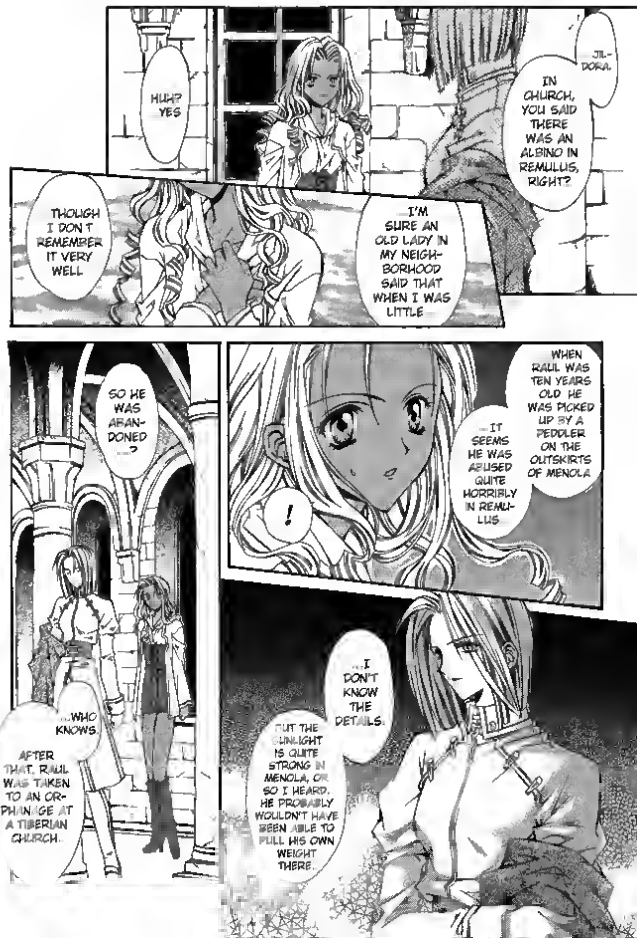
...RAUL!

I, too, fell in love with Azrael when he was nothing but a stranger to me!

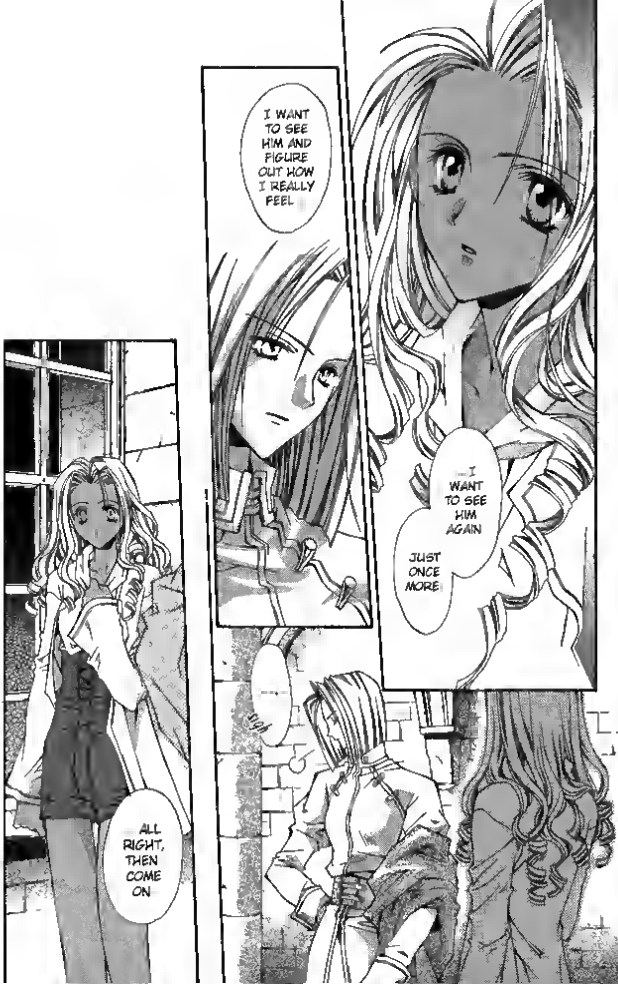
tap
.....
...JIL-
DORA.

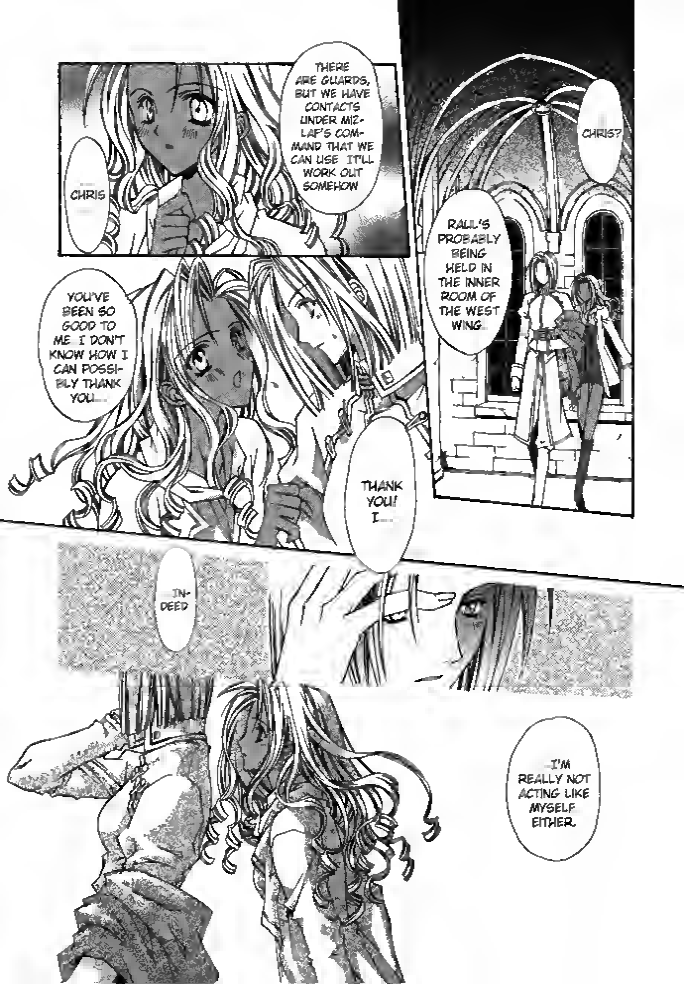
CHRIS
THERE'S A HARBOR CALLED AGLU SOME 200 METERS FROM HERE
I'LL SEE YOU OFF
...ABOUT RAUL... WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO HIM...?
...THERE'S NO NEED TO LOOK SO DOWN IT'S NOT LIKE HIS LIFE IS AT STAKE


NO MATTER HOW MUCH MIZLAF HATES REMULANS, HE CAN'T HURT A BISHOP UNDER DIRECT CONTROL OF THE ARCH-BISHOP
...HE'LL PROBABLY BE REMOVED FROM HIS POSITION AS BISHOP AND EXILED FROM MENOLA TO CREWNY THE CAPITAL
...!!!
.....
WHY HE BETRAYED REMULUS...?
...CHRIS, DO YOU KNOW WHY?
...OR DO YOU ACTUALLY WANT SOMETHING TO HAPPEN TO HIM?
Step
...OR...


JIL-DORA...
IN CHURCH, YOU SAID THERE WAS AN ALBINO IN REMULUS, RIGHT?
HUH? YES
...I'M SURE AN OLD LADY IN MY NEIGH-BORHOOD SAID THAT WHEN I WAS LITTLE...
THOUGH I DON'T REMEMBER IT VERY WELL
WHEN RAUL WAS TEN YEARS OLD HE WAS PICKED UP BY A PEDDLER ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF MENOLA
...IT SEEMS HE WAS ABUSED QUITE HORRIBLY IN REMU-LUS
!
...I DON'T KNOW THE DETAILS.
...BUT THE UNLIGHT IS QUITE STRONG IN MENOLA, OR SO I HEARD. HE PROBABLY WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ABLE TO PULL HIS OWN WEIGHT THERE.
SO HE WAS ABAN-DONED...?
...WHO KNOWS.
AFTER THAT, RAUL WAS TAKEN TO AN OR-PHANAGE AT A TIBERIAN CHURCH.

JIL-DORA
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO?
I DON'T THINK RAUL EVEN HAD THE RIGHT TO REFUSE EVERY-THING HE DID WAS DONE SO THAT HE COULD SURVIVE IN A FOREIGN LAND
RAUL WAS FORCIBLY DRAFTED AND PULLED INTO THE BATTLE-FIELD AFTER ALL HE WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO KNEW WHERE HIS FORMER PEOPLE THE REMULIANS WERE
WHEN THE PREVIOUS ARCHBISHOP BEGAN HUNTING DOWN TWIBES IN THE AREA DURING THE WAR,
WELL TO YOU, I SUPPOSE THAT'S NOTHING MORE THAN AN EXCUSE FOR WHY YOUR BROTHER DIED
RAUL PROBABLY THOUGHT THE SAME
SQUEEZE
I—


I WANT TO SEE HIM AND FIGURE OUT HOW I REALLY FEEL
I WANT TO SEE HIM AGAIN JUST ONCE MORE
ALL RIGHT, THEN COME ON


CHRIS?
RAUL'S PROBABLY BEING HELD IN THE INNER ROOM OF THE WEST WING.
THERE ARE GUARDS, BUT WE HAVE CONTACTS UNDER MIZ-LAF'S COMMAND THAT WE CAN USE. IT'LL WORK OUT SOMEHOW
CHRIS
YOU'VE BEEN SO GOOD TO ME. I DON'T KNOW HOW I CAN POSSIBLY THANK YOU...
THANK YOU! I...
INDEED
...I'M REALLY NOT ACTING LIKE MYSELF EITHER.

...LET'S GO
...YES!
WAIT
HEY

YOU'RE GOING TO BE EXILED TO CREWNY IN A FEW DAYS.
...YOU SHOULD BE GRATEFUL TO LORD MIZLAF THAT YOU'RE GETTING OUT OF HERE ALIVE AT ALL.
ALIVE ...HUH.
I HOPE SHE'S ALREADY GOTTEN AWAY FROM HERE... CHRIS IS TAKING CARE OF HER, SO SHE SHOULD BE OKAY...
...THAT IDIOT...

"ARE YOU AZRAEL?"
SHION
SCRATCH
SIGH
EXCUSE ME
I HAVE BROUGHT WATER FOR HIS GRACE..

WHAT? WHY'D YOU BRING SOMETHING LIKE THAT?
NO HOLD ON A MOMENT... HE HASN'T HAD ANYTHING TO EAT OR DRINK FOR A WHILE
IT'S ONLY WATER, IT SHOULD BE FINE. BESIDES WE CAN'T HAVE HIM DYING ON US BEFORE HE'S EVEN SENT BACK TO CREWNY.
...
PARDON THE INTRUSION
...ALL RIGHT
GO INSIDE
...?
FWIP
...!

GRAB
reach
CLATTER
AH!
UM...
OH...
WHA...
...WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?! WHERE EXACTLY DO YOU THINK YOU ARE...?!

CHRIS? WHAT ABOUT CHRIS?!
CHRIS DIDN'T SET YOU UP TO THIS, DID SHE?
CHRIS ASKED SOMEONE SHE KNEW TO HELP ME SNEAK INSIDE...
THE PERSON STANDING OUTSIDE
YOU...
YOU'RE FOOLS THE WHOLE LOT OF YOU!
BUT
THERE'S NO POINT IN THIS IF YOU GET STUCK IN HERE, TOO!
...BUT I KNEW I'D REGRET IT IF I LEFT WITHOUT EVER SEEING YOU AGAIN
.....

WHEN I WAS STILL IN REMILLIUS, IT FELT LIKE PEOPLE ALWAYS THOUGHT OF ME AS SEPARATE FROM THE OTHER KIDS SOMETHING DIFFERENT
CHRIS...
SHE TOLD ME ABOUT YOU... I MEAN
DID YOU COME TO HEAR MY SIDE OF THE STORY?
IT WAS LIKE AN ALBINO WAS SOMETHING TO BE SHUNNED IN REMILLIUS
MY MOTHER WAS EMOTIONAL, ALWAYS QUICK TO ANGER.
SHE USED TO HIT ME A LOT.
LIVING ON MY OWN HAD TO BE BETTER THAN ALWAYS HAVING TO TIPTOE AROUND MY MOTHER AND RISK SETTING HER OFF. EVEN IF I HAD TO LIVE OFF OF GRASS AND MUDDY WATER.
THAT'S WHAT I DECIDED AND THAT'S WHY I WENT ALL THE WAY TO TIBERIA.
ONE DAY, SHE WAS WORSE THAN USUAL... THAT WAS THE DAY I LEFT

WELL, WHEN I THINK ABOUT IT NOW I GUESS PART OF IT WAS REVENGE.
ANYWAY WHEN IT HAPPENED, I DARED TO GO OUT TO THE FRONT LINE TO SEE FOR MYSELF.
WHY?
SO THAT'S WHY WHEN I WAS ORDERED TO TELL THEM WHERE THE TOWN OF REMULUS WAS DURING THAT BATTLE
I GAVE IN AND TOLD THEM WITHOUT A SECOND THOUGHT.
I THOUGHT I HAD TO DO IT TO LIVE
TO JUSTIFY WHAT I'D DONE
IF I JUST TURNED AWAY AND REFUSED TO LOOK, THEN I NEVER WOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO SAY AGAIN THAT I WAS RIGHT
THAT WAS WHEN I MET HIM.

THE REMULAN NAMED SHION...
...YOUR BROTHER.
crack
...Four years ago, I left the front line not even hearing when the knight guarding me tried to stop me—
I went only as far as a mountain peak where I could look out over Remulia.

—Back then, I could think of nothing but finding a place I could call my own.
I didn't have the time or the composure to look back on what I'd done
RUSTLE
GASP
IT'S FINE LIKE THIS

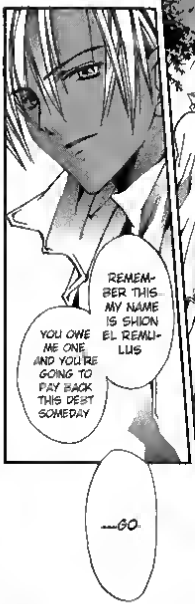
—This is bad!
—I've been found out!
WHO ARE YOU?
—ARE YOU A MAN OF TIBERIA?
YOU...

YANK
DASH
ALBINO?

drip
...SO YOU'RE THE ONE WHO TALKED?
GRAB
...!
I REME-MEBER NOW
huff
THERE USED TO BE AN ALBINO BOY IN TOWN

...
...
RELEASE
WHO IS THAT?
THE ALBINO BRAT? IS THAT YOU?
RUSTLE
AH
YOU REALLY ARE COMPLETELY WHITE

I WAS BROUGHT BACK BY A TIBERIAN SOLDIER
—I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED AFTER THAT

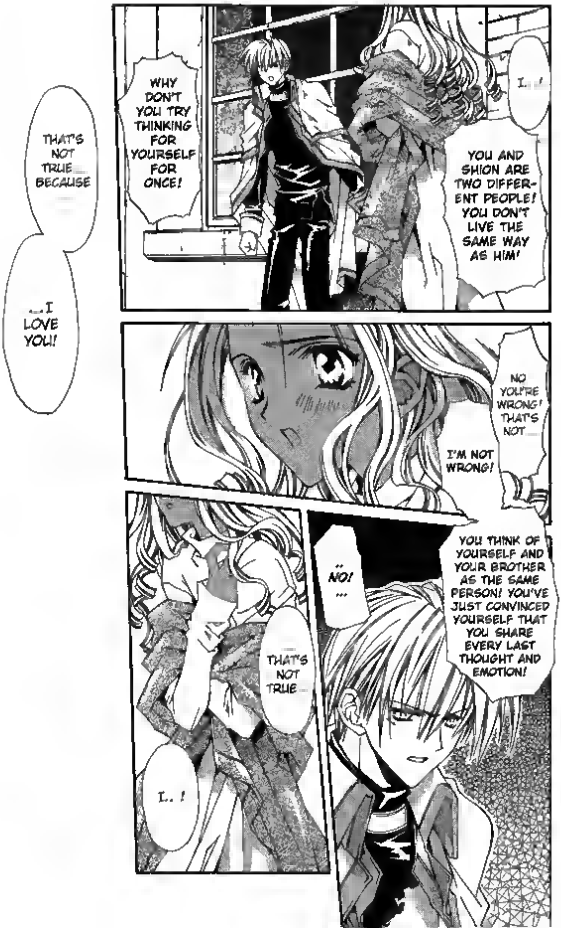

REMEMBER THIS MY NAME IS SHION EL REMILLUS
YOU OWE ME ONE AND YOU'RE GOING TO PAY BACK THIS DEBT SOMEDAY
—GO.

—I'M NOT GOING TO KILL YOU.

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO, JILDORA?

I'VE SURVIVED THIS LONG, BUT IT'S ONLY BECAUSE I COULDN'T JUST THROW AWAY A LIFE THAT YOUR BROTHER LET ME KEEP...
I SOLD OUT MY HOMETOWN AND USED THAT AS A STEPPING STONE TO EARN A PLACE FOR MYSELF
...BUT YOU'RE A DIFFERENT STORY YOU SHARE YOUR BROTHER'S BLOOD AND SO YOU ALONE HAVE THE RIGHT TO DECIDE MY FUTURE
...I HAVE TO REPAY MY DEBT...
IF...
IF I TOLD YOU THAT I WANTED YOU TO ATONE FOR WHAT YOU'VE DONE BY DYING, WOULD YOU DO IT?
...IF THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT
I...

WHEN MY BROTHER SAID THE NAME "AZRAEL," I WANTED TO KNOW WHAT KIND OF PERSON THAT AZRAEL WAS
MY BROTHER AND I HAD ALWAYS BEEN TOGETHER, EVER SINCE WE WERE YOUNG. SO THERE WAS NOTHING MORE PAINFUL THAN KNOWING THAT MY BROTHER'S HEART HAD GROWN DISTANT FROM ME
BUT...
SO I FEEL LIKE I KNOW WHAT IT WAS LIKE WHEN MY BROTHER MET YOU.
THE FIRST TIME I SAW YOU, I THOUGHT YOU WERE BEAUTIFUL
HOW YOU MOVED MY BROTHER'S HEART...
glare
squeeze
YOU...
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?!
SO IF YOUR BROTHER FORGAVE ME, THEN YOU'LL FORGIVE ME, TOO?!


I...!
YOU AND SHION ARE TWO DIFFERENT PEOPLE! YOU DON'T LIVE THE SAME WAY AS HIM!
WHY DON'T YOU TRY THINKING FOR YOURSELF FOR ONCE!
THAT'S NOT TRUE... BECAUSE...
...I LOVE YOU!
NO YOU'RE WRONG! THAT'S NOT...
I'M NOT WRONG!
YOU THINK OF YOURSELF AND YOUR BROTHER AS THE SAME PERSON! YOU'VE JUST CONVINCED YOURSELF THAT YOU SHARE EVERY LAST THOUGHT AND EMOTION!
...NO!...
THAT'S NOT TRUE...
I..!

...I CAN'T
...DO SOMETHING AS HORRIBLE AS TAKE YOUR LIFE AWAY
I CAN'T FORGIVE THE PERSON WHO HURT MY BROTHER AND BETRAYED REMUS.
...BUT I CAN'T BRING MYSELF TO WANT YOU TO ATONE FOR YOUR SINS BY DYING, EITHER
drip
...I WANT YOU TO LIVE.
THAT'S WHAT I WANT

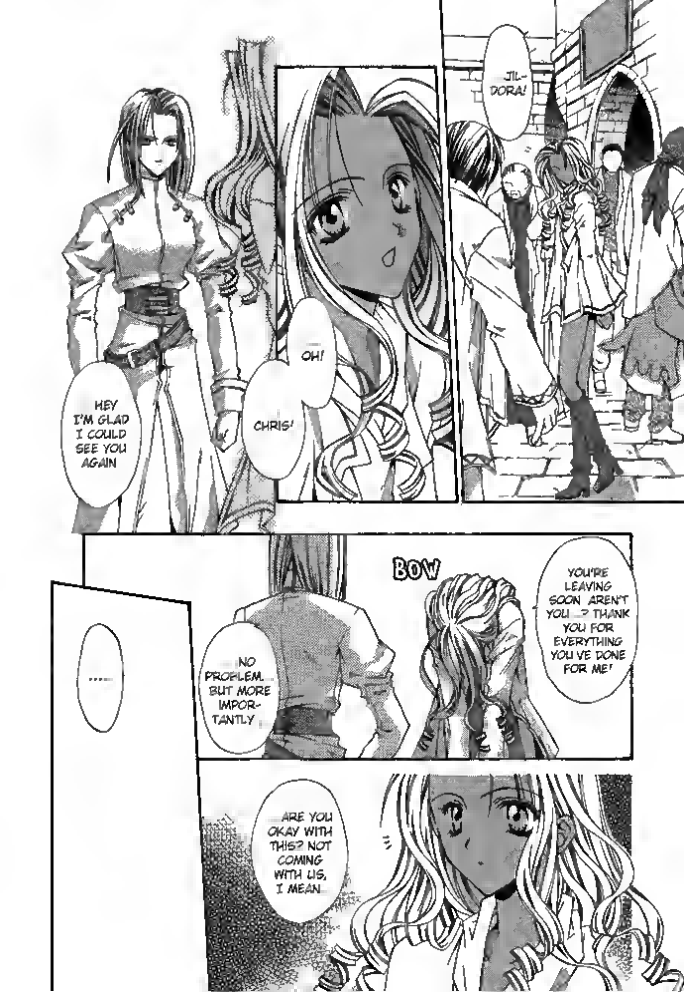
tap
DON'T CRY.
I'M ALWAYS
...BEING SAVED BY THE TWO OF YOU AREN'T I?

touch
WELL THEN FOR ME AND FOR MY BROTHER,
I PROMISE ME THAT WE'LL MEET AGAIN, AT THE PLACE WHERE THE SOUL OF REMULLIA IS SLEEPING
THAT'S ENOUGH TO REPAY YOUR DEBT
I'M NO LONGER REMULIAN.
...YES, YOU ARE.
EVEN IF YOUR SKIN IS A DIFFERENT COLOR
THE BLOOD RUNNING BENEATH IT IS THE SAME COLOR AS OURS

Ends the tale of this small, chance meeting—
SO IT'S TRUE, THAT THE BISHOP IS RETURNING TO CREWNY?
BUT I WONDER WHY SO SUDDENLY?
IF ONLY WE COULD SEE HIM ONCE MORE...

I PROMISE

—And so...


JIL-DORA!
OH!
CHRIS!
HEY I'M GLAD I COULD SEE YOU AGAIN
BOW
YOU'RE LEAVING SOON AREN'T YOU...? THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING YOU'VE DONE FOR ME!
NO PROBLEM... BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY...
.....
...ARE YOU OKAY WITH THIS? NOT COMING WITH US, I MEAN...

YES
BEING ABLE TO SEE HIM AGAIN THAT NIGHT WAS ENOUGH
BESIDES, I'D DRAG YOU DOWN IF I WENT WITH YOU
I SEE
REALLY THANK YOU SO MUCH
WE WILL
TAKE CARE
HE'S HERE

—May light brighten your path wherever you go.

— East of the sun, west of the moon

The ancient people of Remulus live there in that secret place, or so I heard

The East of the Sun, the West of the Moon / End

まんがが出来るまで。

まんがが出来るまで。
まんが。
さぁ、今日はアプトと作業から始めましょう。
ハァー
ハァー
ハァー

…ってちょっと待ってくださいよ プロットなんも進んでないですか…??

担当様

ぶるぶるぶる…

アレー?

鳥の鳴き声とキャンにしてどうぞお入れ

なんか木漏れ日切いって連載とかも新作の大変なんかすヨー

キャラも毎回作んないといけないから

そういう訳で自宅はどうでも大変でした

あとアロエとつつこと遊んだりこう別物だったりしました

今思えば

ずんが成長するだけでめ

PIYO

ちゃんと次も面白いと思ってもらえればいいのですが

古本にはついてはイースイートです(笑)

しくしくスミマセン

最後に投げましたがお手に取って下さって本当にありがとうございました

あとは担当様はじめお世話になった方々にも感謝を

また どこかでお目にかかれたら幸いです。

ぺこ